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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ATTORNEY GENERAL McGRAW AWARDS FUNDING TO CONCORD UNIVERSITY FROM THE PHARMA, INC. SETTLEMENT FUNDS

Attorney General Darrell McGraw today announced the distribution of $100,000 to Concord University for its study of the implementation of an electronic prescription system. This money comes from the latest installment in the $10,000,000 settlement with Purdue Pharma, Inc. over the addictive qualities of the drug Oxycontin.

Concord University Research and Development Corp in partnership with Tygart Technology, Inc., will use this funding to conduct a study on how to implement electronic prescribing of medication throughout the State of West Virginia.

Electronic prescribing is a computerized system used by pharmacists and medical providers to more accurately and efficiently prescribe and distribute a patient's medications. Through electronic prescribing, a patient's prescription is entered directly into a database and stored. This information can then be accessed by pharmacists and medical providers. Electronic prescribing can be used to protect patients from the dangers of medication interactions, detect fraud and prescription drug abuse and give patients and providers a more convenient and reliable method of filling prescriptions.

"While prescription medications play an important role in adding to the quality of life for Americans, they can also present dangers when taken improperly or abused. Electronic prescribing can give medical providers a tool in the fight against prescription drug abuse and it can protect patients from the dangers of drug interactions. This study is a large step toward implementing this important advancement in medical technology."

Purdue Pharma agreed to pay West Virginia $10 million over four years and this award came from the second installment of $2.5 million.

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